

# NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

Published by  
THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS  
1201 Sixteenth Street N W Washington D C

VOL. II

SEPTEMBER, 1934

NO. 3

## Busy Session for National Board

ALL WORK and no play seems to be in prospect for the Board of Managers of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers when it meets at the Cataract House, Niagara Falls, New York, September 24-29, according to plans outlined by Mrs. B. F. Langworthy, National President. An automobile drive to show the visitors the scenic wonders of the Niagara Falls region, which is being planned by the New York Congress, is the only recreational feature included in the week's program. The rest of the time will be devoted to consideration of the business at hand.

### Goals

An important item on the agenda is the report of the Committee on Goals for Parent-Teacher Associations, of which Mrs. A. B. Shuttleworth, Denver, is chairman. It was decided at the September 1933, Board meeting that parent-teacher work has reached a stage of development which calls for a broader statement of standards of achievement than is provided by the requirements for Standard and Superior Associations. A committee was appointed to set up desirable goals toward which local units should work. The committee report submitted at the Des Moines meeting was referred back to the committee for revision, and it is anticipated that a definite agreement will be reached at the Niagara Falls meeting.

Mrs. Charles Pye, of Des Moines, Iowa, will preside at the dinner conference of State Presidents on Monday evening, and Mrs. Fred Raymond, of Grand Rapids, Michigan, will act as chairman of the National Chairmen's conference.

The October issue of the NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN will publish a summary of National Board action affecting state branches.



Mrs. Hamilton Shaffer, Dayton, Ohio,  
Second Vicepresident and Aide to the  
President, National Congress of Par-  
ents and Teachers

### New Secretary

John T. Webner has been appointed General Secretary of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, assuming his new position September 1. He succeeds W. Elwood Baker, who has held the position since 1930.

Mr. Webner is a graduate of Pennsylvania State College and has done post graduate work at American University, Washington, D. C., and the Merrill-Palmer School, Detroit. He has recently served as Educational Adviser at Civilian Conservation Camps M.P. 3 and 4, Wilderness, Virginia.

His travels, parent-teacher activities, and varied educational experience, as a teacher and administrator in public and private schools, in rural and city school systems, in gradeschool and highschool, in the United States, and in Puerto Rico, have eminently fitted Mr. Webner for his new work. He was manager of a fruit plantation in Puerto Rico for two years and superintendent of the Agricultural Experiment Station, Santo Domingo, for a year. He owns and manages a farm and summer camp near Richmond, Virginia. He has four children.

## Parent Education Radio Program

MRS. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT has been invited to open the series of parent education radio programs to be broadcast each Thursday, beginning October 4 from 5 to 5:30 P.M., Eastern Standard Time, under the auspices of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, the University of Chicago, and the National Broadcasting Company, over the red network of N.B.C.

A Listener's Pamphlet containing outlines of each week's program and questions and references for the use of study groups will be published. It will be available to groups of 10 or more at the rate of 10 cents a copy; or single copies may be ordered for 15 cents each.

(Continued on page 2)

## Century of Progress Parent- Teacher Day

NATIONAL Parent-Teacher Day at the Chicago Century of Progress has been changed to Saturday, September 22. The change in date was arranged to enable more members of the Board of Managers of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers to stop over in Chicago for this event, enroute to the Board meeting at Niagara Falls, New York, September 24 to 29. National Board members will be guests of the exposition on that day.

Dr. Henry Lester Smith, newly elected president of the National Education Association, and Mrs. B. F. Langworthy, President of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, will be the featured speakers. *Their talks will be broadcast by the National Broadcasting Company, from 3:30 to 4 P.M., Chicago Daylight Saving Time.* Mr. Smith's subject will be "Education and Progress." Mrs. Langworthy will speak on the topic, "The Parents' Part in Education."



# National Committees at Work

## Membership

Miss Mary England, National Membership Chairman, in a recent letter to state membership chairmen, makes many valuable suggestions for increasing enrolment and attendance at parent-teacher meetings. "There is no question about the advisability of keeping attendance and enrolment charts," she says, "I urge that you strongly encourage this practice. The use of membership devices, however, depends upon local conditions, the nature of the device, and the use made of it. In no case must a child be penalized because parents do not see fit to join. Too frequently the device defeats the high purpose we have just set up. If its use does not violate this purpose, it can be made an effective means of stimulating interest and giving publicity during the enrolment period.

"Here is a suggested plan for helping ourselves. Let's have a contest, a membership article contest. Send to me your best article or articles on membership. A competent disinterested committee will judge them. Show your approval of and interest in this plan by sending in an article."

Miss England praises "the immeasurably improved quality of membership work," and urges membership chairmen to "keep up this good work."

## International Relations

The Hungarian Federation of Home and School has recently been welcomed into membership in the International Federation of Home and School. The Hungarian Federation has been in existence for 10 years, and for 4 years has worked under bylaws approved by the Ministry of the Interior. It endeavors in various ways to fit parents to fulfil their obligations as to the education of their children, physically and spiritually. To this end it conducts a School for Parents, edits an educational periodical, "Child Protection," and has arranged conferences on various social and educational questions.

## Special Committee Chairmen

The following chairmen of Special Committees have been appointed by the National President for the coming year:

*Resolutions*—Miss Ellen Lombard

*Revisions*—Mrs. Fred M. Raymond

*Office*—Newell W. Edson

*Goals*—Mrs. A. B. Shuttleworth

*State and National Relationships*—Mrs. James G. Sheehan

*Congress Development*—Mrs. A. H. Reeve

*Cooperating Agencies*—Mrs. F. H. Blake

*Convention Management*—Mrs. Hugh Bradford

*State Bylaws*—Mrs. O. T. Bright  
Mrs. L. Cass Brown

*Colored Parents and Teachers*—  
Mrs. Charles D. Center

## Summer Round-Up

Dr. Lillian R. Smith, National Chairman of the Summer Round-Up of the Children, has recently sent a report blank to each local unit participating in this year's campaign. She requests that, following the fall check-up to find out what has been accomplished for the health of the children examined last spring, it be properly filled out and returned to the National Office.

"After the Round-Up work has been completed, let us inform the general public of the results that have been accomplished," she urges. "Each local unit registered for the Round-Up is expected to send in a report before November 1, regardless of whether or not the work has been carried through according to national requirements."

## Radio Programs

(Continued from page 1)

The following committee is arranging the programs: Mrs. B. F. Langworthy, Miss Judith Waller, Dr. Ada Hart Arlitt, Mr. B. H. Darrow, Mrs. John Sharpless Fox, Mr. Allen Miller, and Mr. Harold Gray.

## October Schedule

### October 4

General introduction to the series, Mrs. B. F. Langworthy, President of the National Congress, introducing Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Major issues introduced by national leaders.

### October 11

Home and School Relationships, Dr. George F. Zook, Director, American Council on Education, and former United States Commissioner of Education.

### October 18

The Children's Charter, Ray Lyman Wilbur, President of Stanford University.

### October 25

Child Development, Dr. Ada Hart Arlitt, Chairman, Parent Education, National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

## Recreation

Parent-Teacher Associations as Friends of Recreation is the title of an article in "Telling Your Town," issued by the National Recreation Association. Excerpts:

Parent-teacher associations, it is well known, have both mobilized public opinion behind municipal recreation and have carried out projects in cooperation with public recreation agencies. Among many examples of parent-teacher association services as reported in state reports for 1933, the following may be cited as representative:

Arizona associations were active in the promotion of a public works bond issue for recreation.

Among many California projects were the following: sponsoring and financing life-saving crews on lakes and at ocean beaches; a survey under a trained leader sponsored by a fathers' council as a basis for a supervised summer recreation program; mothers serving as assistant supervisors on after-school playgrounds in two districts; a survey for kindergarten recreational needs for the benefit of a board of education; service by P.T.A. chairmen in 16 districts as playground directors, storytellers, coaches, community sing directors, and members of recreation and park boards; financing of playground equipment in 14 districts; provision of paid supervisors for playgrounds in 7 districts; etc.

Illinois parent-teacher associations are participating in a statewide recreation survey in cooperation with the emergency relief administration and Northwestern University. Provision of playground equipment is one of the most successful types of activities of the local associations.

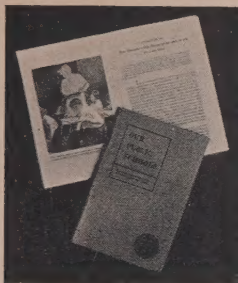
The Portland, Oregon Council of Parent-Teacher Associations signed a letter to the Civil Works Administration asking for funds to carry on recreational activities, afternoon and evening, in public schools. They were allowed four schools, three for gymnasium, handcraft, and drama classes, and one for swimming.

Utah parent-teacher associations report maintenance of three play centers with volunteer supervision in three schools, and the formation of a recreation council to cooperate with school recreation programs in Salt Lake City. This summer the Salt Lake City associations are cooperating with the city recreation department in the promotion of a citywide backyard playground contest. In Logan a large recreation park and playground has been equipped and given an organized recreation program.

Washington state associations have cooperated with the C.W.A. in preparing and beautifying playgrounds, purchasing playground equipment, and many other activities.

Twentieth National Recreation Congress  
Washington, D. C., October 1-5, 1934  
Headquarters: Wardman Park Hotel





## Our Public Schools

The handy little pocket-size book, *Our Public Schools*, recently published by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, is meeting with an enthusiastic reception from educators and laymen alike. This dynamic story of the development of the public schools of the United States meets the long-felt need for an authoritative, simple sourcebook on this subject. It is useful for study groups or for individual reading. The price is 50 cents.

## School Life

Four pages more will appear each month in *School Life*, monthly journal of the Federal Office of Education. Union of the Federal Board for Vocational Education and the Office of Education makes *School Life* the official mouthpiece for the principal government activities in the interest of education. Due to the increase in the number of pages and in printing costs, the price has been increased to \$1 per year.

\* \* \* \*

*Living Together in the Family*, by Dr. Lemo T. Dennis, is a text for the so-called "units of family relationships" now being developed in the highschool courses of home economics. Chapter 9, "Founding a Home," is an excellent introduction to the preparation of youth for marriage. This book interprets the wants, feelings, and motives of the various family members; stresses tolerance and understanding as necessary in maintaining happy relations with others; and should also prove a helpful text for parent study groups. The price is \$1 and it may be purchased from the American Home Economics Association, Mills Building, Washington, D. C.

—Newell W. Edson.

\* \* \* \*

"Instruction In the Effects of Alcohol and Tobacco" is the title of a new pamphlet by James Frederick Rogers, Consultant in Hygiene, U. S. Office of Education. It may be ordered from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., price 5 cents.

## New Magazine Praised

The new *National Parent-Teacher Magazine* is being most enthusiastically received. The new name, larger size, and generally improved appearance of the official publication of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, initiated with the September issue, are gaining new friends for the magazine, as well as calling forth praise from old ones. These are a few comments the editors have received:

I must not let another day pass until I have told you what a vast improvement our new magazine is over the old one. I especially like the way the objectives of the Congress are separated on the page with the table of contents. Everything else about it seems to me to be in line with the very best publications.—Miss CHARL WILLIAMS, D. C.

It certainly is a much better size, and it is beautiful and most artistically done. The cuts are clear and appropriate, the advertisements well set up and interesting reading, and best of all in the articles from contributors I always have the greatest feeling of confidence in these helpful viewpoints which are so applicable to everyday life. — Mrs. HERMAN FERCER, Tennessee.

Allow me to congratulate you and all the staff upon the excellent September issue of *The National Parent-Teacher*. I think the new name and general change in appearance are great improvements.—Mrs. J. M. HANKINS, D. C.

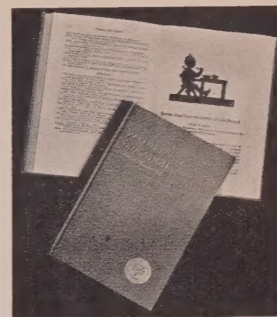
It really should sell itself. Congratulations to all who contributed toward making such a beautiful magazine. It is now worthy of our national organization.—Mrs. T. MERLE SHAW, Connecticut.

I think the transformation has put new life into the National Magazine. I like the name, the size, the make up, and the contents. Have read it from cover to cover already and exhibited it to a number of friends who also admired it.—Mrs. C. H. TURNER, California.

## J. K. Pettengill

We record with deep sorrow for our beloved First Vice-president the passing away of her husband, Mr. J. K. Pettengill, on September 10. Mr. Pettengill has, during the years of his wife's service to the Congress, in Michigan and on the National Board, been of the greatest help to her and to us. He was not only tolerant of the attention that his wife gave to this work but he performed a vast number of personal services that promoted everything that she did. We express to Mrs. Pettengill and her children our deep and loving sympathy in what must seem to them an insupportable loss.

Mary L. Langworthy.



## Parent Education Fourth Yearbook

The *Parent Education Fourth Yearbook*, published in May 1934, attractively bound in blue and gold, well-illustrated, is complete with excellent readable material for parents of today.

Study groups continually searching for material which is informative, stimulating, and sound will happily welcome this fine yearbook arranged by Dr. Ada Hart Arlitt, well-known specialist on parent education, and National Chairman of the Committee on Parent Education of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. Price \$1.

## Miss Bowler Honored

Uncle Sam has reached out for another National Congress committee chairman\* to fill a high position. Miss Alida Bowler, National Chairman of Juvenile Protection, has been appointed Superintendent of the Carson Indian School, Stewart, Nevada. This is one of the major agency jurisdictions, and according to the Indian office, this is the first time that a woman has been placed in an executive position of major scope.

\* It will be recalled that Dr. J. W. Studebaker, at the time of his appointment as United States Commissioner of Education, was National Chairman of School Education.

\* \* \* \*

"It delights me greatly to see the increasing space which newspapers are devoting to the work of the P.T.A. Everyone should know of course that this organization is noncommercial, and nonpolitical in its purpose and unselfishly devoted to the child, your child and mine; that none of its officers from the local to the National President receives any salary. The National official organ of the P.T.A. is *The National Parent-Teacher* (formerly called *Child Welfare*) and its editor and associates get no pay."—Garry Cleveland Myers.

\* \* \* \*

New York Herald-Tribune Women's Conference—September 26-27, Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York City.



# News From State Branches

## Florida

Sponsoring school gardening is one of the newest, strongest, and most unique of Pinellas county council's projects.

A demonstration in effective nature study through real gardening has been carried on at Lakewood School, St. Petersburg, for five years. It won first prize in school garden division of the Better Yard and Garden contest this year.

## Minnesota

The Grand Rapids Council has as its aim the unification of the work of the local units—all common projects are started out with joint committees in the fall.

During the coming year, the council is working for a village nurse, and two new committees have been organized, one on membership and the other, standardization. These committees will work to promote these two projects in every unit.

## North Carolina

Mrs. William B. Aycock, of Raleigh, newly elected President of the North Carolina Congress of Parents and Teachers, is a daughter-in-law of the late Governor Charles B. Aycock, who upon his election, launched a vigorous campaign for "equal educational opportunity" for every child in the state. So successful were his efforts that he has been known since that time as the "educational Governor," and a monument to his memory stands in the capitol square at Raleigh.

## Annual Summary

Facts about what Congress parent-teacher associations throughout the country are actually doing are given in the Annual Summary of Local Unit Information which will appear in the *Proceedings* to be released this month. Later, these 16 pages will be available in reprint form.

Main headings under which information is classified in the 1933-34 Annual Summary are as follows:

Membership	Study Groups
Types of	Activities and Projects
Associations	Emergency Activities
Dues	Use of Congress Publications
Programs	Training in Parent-Teacher
Committees	Work

Reports were received from 57 percent of the units of the National Congress, or 11,849 Congress parent-teacher associations.

## New Jersey

An experiment in the use of the radio for parents' discussion groups is taking place in New Jersey under the joint management of the state Congress of Parents and Teachers and the Home Economics Extension Service of the State College of Agriculture, Rutgers University, over Station WOR.

Subject matter and leader-training come from the colleges; organization, leaders and group members from the Congress. Copies of the talks, with questions and references, are sent to each group leader before the broadcast, through the County Home Demonstration Agents. On alternate weeks questions received from the groups are presented by a county parent education chairman and answered by the Extension Specialist.

The program for 1933-34 consisted of 36 broadcasts which were grouped around the following subjects: The Preschool Child, the School-Age Child, and subjects of general interest to homemakers.

From 150 to 300 groups with 7 to 20 members have met regularly for each of the 6 series of talks on child development which have been given since 1932.

## Wisconsin

1935 marks the 25th Birthday of the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers. As a major objective this year they will endeavor to bring their membership up to 25,000. This will mean about a 40% increase and they hope to come near that mark by April 1, 1935.

## Motion Pictures

Mrs. Langworthy has asked State Presidents to warn their members against cooperating in Better Films Councils, which she points out, are another form of cooperation with the industry. "Many of those who are promoting Better Films Councils are doubtless unaware of the fact that this movement will tend to defeat the very ends which they seek to attain," she says. "We cannot cooperate in Better Films Councils because we have resolved not to cooperate with the industry in making the wolf look and talk like Red Riding Hood's grandmother."

During the fall months, Motion Picture Conferences will be held by Mrs. Robbins Gilman, National Chairman of Motion Pictures, in Michigan, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Maryland, Louisiana, Texas, Kentucky, Ohio, Virginia, Washington, D. C., Pennsylvania and North Carolina.

## Fall State Conventions

Arkansas—Fort Smith, Nov. 7-9  
 Indiana—Indianapolis, Oct. 15-18  
 Maine—Augusta, Oct. 2-3  
 Maryland—Havre de Grace, Nov. 20-22  
 Massachusetts—Boston, Oct. 29-31  
 Minnesota—Albert Lea, Oct. 16-18  
 Missouri—St. Joseph, Oct. 30-31  
 Nebraska—Beatrice, Oct. 17-19  
 New Jersey—Atlantic City, Nov. 7-9  
 New Mexico—Roswell, Nov. 13-15  
 New York—Long Beach, L. I., Oct. 1-4  
 North Dakota—Fargo, Oct. 19-20  
 Ohio—Columbus, Oct. 10-12  
 Pennsylvania—Scranton, Oct. 9-11  
 South Dakota—Brookings, Oct. 24-25  
 Tennessee—Covington, Nov. 7-9  
 Texas—Corpus Christi, Nov. 19-22  
 Vermont—Springfield, Oct. 4-5  
 Virginia—Lynchburg, Oct. 24-26  
 West Virginia—Morgantown, Oct. 18-20

## National Representatives

Representatives of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers will attend many of these state conventions:  
 Mrs. B. F. Langworthy—New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, Arkansas, New Mexico.  
 Mrs. A. H. Reeve—Maine, Massachusetts, Maryland, Vermont.  
 Mrs. C. H. Thorpe—Nebraska.  
 Dr. Wm. McKinley Robinson—North Dakota, Minnesota.  
 Miss Mary England—Arkansas, Texas.  
 Mrs. Robbins Gilman—Ohio, Virginia, Maryland, New Jersey, Tennessee.  
 Miss Charl Williams—Tennessee.  
 Mrs. C. E. Roe—Minnesota.  
 Miss Frances S. Hays—Ohio, West Virginia.  
 Mrs. A. C. Watkins—Missouri, South Dakota.  
 Miss Alice Sowers—Virginia.

\* \* \* \*

Available from the National Office for 3c postage:

A list of the 200 largest parent-teacher associations in the United States.

A membership chart showing the percentage of population in membership in each state.

\* \* \* \*

"It is a far cry since the day when every parent in the school district knew quite intimately the schoolmaster as he boarded 'round, first a month in one home, then a month in another, sometimes repeating several times during the season, but always staying long enough to feel one of the family and to understand its problems. That, if you please, was the first parent-teacher association, unconscious and involuntary but tremendously efficacious."

—MRS. B. F. LANGWORTHY,  
 President, National Congress  
 of Parents and Teachers